

App. No. 10/676,136
Office Action Dated September 6, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The Specification is hereby amended.

The Specification is objected to for lack of a descriptive title. The title is amended to address the concerns of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the Specification is requested.

Claims 1-6 and 9-15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Tu (US 6,521,881) in view of Denyer (US 5,345,266). Applicants traverse this rejection. The Examiner relies on Denyer as teaching a solid state imaging device including "an imaging semiconductor chip in which all transistors are formed of the same electric conductor", as required by claim 1. While Denyer may teach all transistors of an inverter for use with column sense amplifiers being formed of the same electric conductor (see column 6, lines 38-43), the column sense amplifier (34) is only a part of the image sensor chip disclosed by Denyer. The image sensor chip as a whole taught by Denyer includes both NMOS and PMOS transistors, while the sense amplifiers (34, 36) include CMOS transistors (see Figures 1, 2, and 4).

By requiring all transistors to be formed of the same electric conductor, the imaging semiconductor chip of the solid state imaging device of claim 1 eliminates a through current associated with a CMOS circuit. This allows, for example, a circuit such as a timing generator to be provided in the image processing semiconductor chip of the solid state imaging device where a finer fabrication process can be implemented. The invention of claim 1 provides a small high-performance imaging device that can be produced at a low cost, while maximizing performance resulting from fabrication process. See page 3, lines 20-28.

Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-6 and 9-15 is requested.

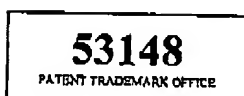
Claims 7 and 8 were rejected as being unpatentable over Tu, in view of Denyer, and further in view of Tago (US 6,844,619). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claims 7 and 8 should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, from which they depend.

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Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims.
Favorable reconsideration of claims 7 and 8 is requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Dated: November 22, 2005



DPM:mfe

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

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